

From: Darrow Wendoloski
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 1:01am
Subject: Microsoft settlement

As a US citizen currently living and working overseas, I am appalled at the laxity of the proposed judgement against Microsoft.

I work in academia, in the biological and biomedical sciences. Traditionally these disciplines have used Apple operating systems; however Microsoft's stranglehold on the US and world programming market means that software developers cannot afford not to be a Microsoft shop. In turn, this means that new software (eg DNA sequencing programs) is developed only for MS/IBM clones, with the net effect that if researchers want to use these new programs they have to fork over exorbitant sums of money to replace their entire departmental software systems, plus the perfectly functional software they already have. And no university department has that kind of money.

Microsoft's conduct with respect to buying out competitors and destroying their product is odious in the extreme, and the practice of "bundling" their browser Internet Explorer with Windows operating system software in such a way as to render competing browsers unstable is deceitful and reprehensible. Their attitude to the open-source community (Linux, BSD etc) is nothing short of paranoiac.

The USA has long prided itself on being a nation where anyone, if they work hard enough, could make themselves a millionaire or even become President. The despicable anti-competitive practices engaged in by Microsoft make a mockery of the Great American Dream.

Many thanks for the time you've taken to read this,

Darrow Wendoloski

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